



# SIGN GUIDELINES

**for Planning, Design, Fabrication, Procurement,  
Installation, and Maintenance of Signs  
for Outdoor Public Use Areas**



**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation**

**March 2002**

### **MISSION STATEMENTS**

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to tribes.

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The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

## PREFACE

Effective communication with the public requires the clear, concise delivery of an understandable message through a certain medium. One of the best ways to convey information to the public is through the medium of signs. A comprehensive sign program should foster safety, facilitate management of an area, provide a learning opportunity for visitors, and offer a positive image and identity for all entities involved in the management of the area (i.e., Bureau of Reclamation, water districts, State parks, etc).

There has been a lack of conformity or continuity in signing of projects administered by Reclamation. Establishing uniform sign guidelines will aid in maintaining a positive Reclamation identity. The intent of this document is to provide needed direction that will facilitate uniform application of the signing guidelines on a Reclamation-wide basis. The guidelines contained herein are discretionary and may be used by Reclamation and others. However, if signs are to be installed on Reclamation lands, they must comply with certain accessibility laws and regulations. In addition, the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* must be followed when placing these types of signs on Reclamation lands.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<b><u>Chapter I - Introduction</u></b> .....	<b>1</b>
A. Purpose of Guidelines .....	1
B. Signing Guideline Principles .....	2
C. Sign Administration .....	3
1. Purpose .....	3
2. Scope .....	3
3. Responsibility .....	3
D. Sign Planning .....	3
1. Sign Plan .....	3
2. Sign Plan Formulation.....	4
3. Sign Plan Format .....	5
E. Sign Funding, Review, and Maintenance .....	5
1. Funding .....	5
2. Sign Review .....	6
3. Sign Maintenance.....	6
F. Sign Approval .....	6
G. Procurement Process .....	6
H. Data Base .....	6
<b><u>Chapter II - Scope</u></b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b><u>Chapter III - Sign Classification</u></b> .....	<b>9</b>
A. Identification Signs .....	9
1. Administrative Signs.....	9
2. Feature Signs .....	9
3. Area Signs .....	9
B. Information Signs .....	10
1. Bulletin Board Sign Medium .....	10
2. Instructional Signs .....	10
3. Interpretive Signs .....	10
4. Accessibility Signs .....	11
C. Directional Signs .....	11
D. Regulatory/Warning/Security .....	11
1. Vehicular Signs .....	11
2. Pedestrian Signs .....	12
E. Miscellaneous Signs .....	13
1. Temporary Signs .....	13
2. Concessionaire Signs.....	13
3. Boating Signs .....	14
4. Snowmobile Signs .....	14
5. Special Event Signs .....	15

## TABLE OF CONTENTS - CONTINUED

	<i>Page</i>
6. Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Signs .....	15
7. Hiking and/or Horse Trails.....	15
8. Waterway Markers .....	16
<b>Chapter IV - Interpretive Signs .....</b>	<b>19</b>
A. Introduction .....	19
B. Definitions and Concepts .....	19
C. Interpretive Signs in Relation to Other Media .....	20
1. Advantages .....	20
2. Disadvantages .....	20
D. Planning .....	21
1. Need .....	21
2. Objectives .....	21
3. Example.....	21
4. Visitor Profile and Marketing Research.....	22
5. Visitor Use Estimates .....	23
6. Themes .....	23
7. Design.....	23
8. Text .....	23
9. Examples .....	24
10. Graphics .....	24
11. Organization Identification .....	25
12. Sign Layout .....	25
E. Construction Materials.....	25
1. Anodized Aluminum .....	25
2. Gator Foam .....	25
3. High Impact Styrene .....	26
4. Embedded Fiberglass .....	26
5. Masonite Silk Screen.....	26
6. Photometal .....	26
7. Plexiglas .....	26
8. Polycarbonate .....	26
9. Polyethylene .....	26
10. Porcelain Enamel .....	26
11. Rigid Vinyl.....	27
12. Screened Sign Board .....	27
F. Location and Placement .....	27
1. Consider the following when selecting sign sites .....	27
2. Probable locations may be .....	27
3. Consider the following when determining proper sign placement .....	28

## TABLE OF CONTENTS - CONTINUED

	<i>Page</i>
G. Special Considerations .....	28
1. Visitors with Disabilities .....	29
2. Tips .....	29
3. Bilingual Signing .....	30
H. Evaluating/Monitoring Effectiveness .....	30
1. Intrigue .....	30
2. Imagination.....	30
3. Involvement .....	30
4. Information.....	30
5. Influence .....	30
6. Accessibility .....	30
<b><u>Chapter V - General Design Guidelines .....</u></b>	<b><u>31</u></b>
A. Purpose .....	31
B. Principles .....	31
C. Sign Objectives .....	31
D. Sign Design.....	32
E. Standard, General Purpose Reclamation Signs.....	32
1. Traffic Control Sign Shapes .....	32
2. Colors .....	33
F. Agency Name .....	35
G. Vendor ID .....	35
H. Reflectorization .....	35
I. Message Formulation .....	35
1. When composing a message, consider the following Guidelines .....	36
2. Individual or Group Sign Development .....	36
J. Message Determination .....	39
1. First Step .....	40
2. Second Step .....	40
3. Third Step .....	40
4. First Partial Result .....	40
5. Fourth Step .....	40
6. Fifth Step .....	40
7. End Result .....	40
K. Sign Size Determination .....	40
L. Symbols/Seals/Emblems.....	41
1. Seals/Emblems .....	43
2. Agency Identification .....	44
M. Letter Styles .....	44
1. Typeface .....	44
2. Upper and Lowercase .....	44
N. Signposts and Bases .....	45
1. Placement and Installation .....	46

## TABLE OF CONTENTS - CONTINUED

	<i>Page</i>
O. Determination of Letter Size .....	48
1. Roads .....	48
2. Pedestrian and Trail Signs .....	49
P. Rules for Capitalization .....	49
Q. Spacing Guide .....	50
1. Arrows .....	50
2. Minimum Vertical Spacing .....	51
3. Minimum Horizontal Spacing .....	53
R. Sign Materials .....	55
1. High-Density Overlay (HDO) Plywood.....	56
2. Medium-Density Overlay (MDO) Plywood .....	56
3. Medium-Density Fiberboard (MDF) .....	56
4. Plastics .....	56
5. Carsonite® .....	56
6. Aluminum .....	56
7. Tyvek .....	57
8. Cardboard .....	57
9. Porcelain Enamel on Steel .....	57
10. Fiberglass Embedment .....	57
11. Metal.....	57
12. Redwood .....	57
13. High-Density Foam Boards .....	57
S. Manufactured Signs .....	57
<b><u>Chapter VI - Specific Design Guidelines</u></b> .....	<b>59</b>
A. Design Type A1 .....	59
1. Shape .....	59
2. Sign Board Size .....	59
3. Sign Board Material .....	59
4. Sign Board Fabrication .....	59
5. Sign Face .....	59
6. Sign Base .....	59
7. Method of Anchoring Sign .....	59
8. Lettering .....	59
B. Design Type A2 .....	62
C. Design Type A3 .....	65
D. Design Type B1 .....	67
1. Shape .....	67
2. Sign Board Size .....	67
3. Sign Board Material .....	67
4. Sign Board Fabrication .....	67

## TABLE OF CONTENTS - CONTINUED

	<i>Page</i>
5. Sign Face .....	67
6. Sign Supports .....	67
7. Method of Anchoring Sign .....	67
8. Lettering .....	67
E. Design Type B2 .....	70
F. Design Type C .....	72
1. Shape .....	72
2. Sign Board Size .....	72
3. Sign Board Material .....	72
4. Sign Board Fabrication .....	72
5. Sign Face .....	72
6. Sign Supports .....	72
7. Method of Anchoring Sign .....	72
8. Lettering .....	72
G. Design Type D .....	74
1. Shape .....	74
2. Sign Board Size .....	74
3. Sign Board Material .....	74
4. Sign Board Fabrication .....	74
5. Sign Face .....	74
6. Sign Supports .....	74
7. Method of Anchoring Sign .....	74
8. Lettering .....	74
H. Design Type E .....	76
1. Shape .....	76
2. Sign Board Size .....	76
3. Sign Board Material .....	76
4. Sign Board Fabrication .....	76
5. Sign Face .....	76
6. Sign Supports .....	76
7. Method of Anchoring Sign .....	76
8. Lettering .....	76
I. Design Type F .....	78
1. Shape .....	78
2. Sign Board Size .....	78
3. Sign Board Material .....	78
4. Sign Board Fabrication .....	78
5. Sign Face .....	78
6. Sign Supports .....	78
7. Method of Anchoring Sign .....	78
8. Lettering .....	78
J. Design Type G .....	80
<b><u>Chapter VII - Procurement .....</u></b>	<b>87</b>

## TABLE OF CONTENTS - CONTINUED

	<i>Page</i>
<u>Chapter VIII - Sign Funding and Inventory</u> .....	<b>89</b>
A. General .....	89
B. Funding .....	89
C. Sign Inventory and Review.....	89
1. Adequacy .....	89
2. Wording.....	89
3. Design.....	89
D. Inventory .....	90
1. Identification Number .....	90
2. Location.....	90
3. Description .....	90
4. Substrate .....	90
5. Size .....	90
6. Installation Date .....	90
7. Cost .....	90
8. Last Maintenance Date .....	90
9. Cost of Maintenance .....	90
10. Current Condition .....	90
11. Date Condition Determined .....	90
12. Projected Next Maintenance Date .....	90
E. Evaluation .....	90
F. Action Plan .....	91
G. Planning Period .....	91
H. Documentation.....	91
<u>Chapter IX - Sign Maintenance</u> .....	<b>93</b>
A. Maintenance .....	93
1. Damage .....	93
2. Visibility .....	93
3. Legibility and Appearance .....	93
4. Maintenance Objective .....	93
5. Condition Survey .....	93
6. Maintenance Performance .....	95
7. Volunteers .....	98
<u>References</u> .....	<b>99</b>

## TABLE OF CONTENTS - CONTINUED

### TABLES

<i>Table</i>		<i>Page</i>
1	Major and Minor Identification Signs .....	10
2	Design Types .....	17
3	Pantone, CMYK, and Old Pratt and Lambert Comparison Chart .....	34

### APPENDICES

[Appendix 1 – Accessibility Data Management Checklists](#)

[Appendix 2 – Interpretive Services](#)

[Appendix 3 – Interpretive Project Planning Guide](#)

[Appendix 4 – Table of Letter Widths and Spacing Guide](#)

[Appendix 5 – International Symbols](#)

[Appendix 6 – Examples of Sign Inventory Worksheets](#)

## ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

ADAAG	Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines
Guidelines	Sign Guidelines
HDO	High Density Overlay
Interior	United States Department of the Interior
MDF	Medium Density Fiberboard
MDO	Medium Density Overlay
mph	miles per hour
MUTCD	<i>Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices</i>
NPS	National Park Service
ORV	off-road vehicle
PMS	Pantone Matching System
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
USFS	United States Forest Service

 [Back to Table  
of Contents](#)      [Next  
Section](#) 